

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEXAS
A&M UNIVERSITY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Texas A&M University, the oldest public university in Texas, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary today. By virtue of being the first public institution of higher learning opened in the state of Texas, today we commemorate a milestone for public higher education in Texas.

When Texas A&M opened on October 4, 1876 it attracted a mere six students. Today its student body has grown to nearly 45,000, a level that is expected to once again place it among the five largest universities in the nation. Since its opening, Texas A&M has awarded more than 265,000 degrees. Its graduates include Texas Governor Rick Perry, Bolivian President Jorge F. Quiroga, legislators and other public officials at both the Federal and state levels, chief executive officers of Fortune 500 companies and numerous other highly successful individuals in business, industry and education. Additionally, it has produced thousands of officers for all branches of the military, including more than 200 who have achieved the rank of general or admiral.

While teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels will always be central to Texas A&M's multiple missions, the University has emerged as a major research institution. In fact, this past May it was selected for membership in the Association of American Universities (AAU), the prestigious 101-year-old organization that restricts its ranks to the nation's premier public and private institutions of higher learning. Texas A&M's annual investment in research now totals more than \$400 million annually—the most for any institution in Texas or the Southwest. The myriad of studies and experiments are significantly enhancing the basic body of knowledge, and many of the projects have had major economic impact on the state and nation.

Texas A&M's success in teaching and research can be attributed to an outstanding faculty whose ranks now total approximately 2,400. Included are scores of individuals who are considered among the best in their fields—nationally and internationally. The faculty includes a winner of the Nobel Prize, the National Medal of Science, the World Food Prize and numerous members of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering.

Mr. Speaker, Texas A&M was founded as a Land-Grant College under provisions of the Morrill Act which was approved by Congress on July 2, 1862. The act stipulated that such institutions' "leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and mechanical arts in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the various pursuits and professions in life . . ."

By most assessments, Texas A&M is unsurpassed in staying true to its Land-Grant heritage while expanding into other areas that pro-

vide the foundations for a leading 21st Century university. For example Texas A&M's Colleges of Agriculture and Engineering are among the largest and most respected in the nation, and its Corps of Cadets is the largest uniformed student organization on any campus in the nation, except for the service academies.

Additionally, Texas A&M took the lead nationally in applying the Land-Grant concept to two other areas that are crucial to the nation, specifically sea and space. The concept that led to the Federal creation of Sea-Grant and Space-Grant Colleges was initiated at Texas A&M, and Texas A&M is one of a select few institutions to hold Federal mandates as a Land-, Sea- and Space-Grant College.

Mr. Speaker, I have been fortunate to represent and work closely with Texas A&M University since I was elected to Congress in 1996. During this time I have seen first-hand from the students, the faculty, and the administration why Texas A&M University has become one of our nation's premier universities.

Again, I wish to congratulate Texas A&M University on its first 125 years and wish everyone there much success in the university's next 125 years.

REACHING UP AND OUT . . .
EMPOWERING OTHER WOMEN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, on October 15, an extraordinary fashion show will take place in Chicago. This fashion show, sponsored by the law firm of Arnstein & Lehr, is designed by women who are committed to improving opportunities for other women.

The theme of this fashion show is "Reaching Up and Out . . . Empowering Other Women." I want to commend Arnstein & Lehr for their tremendous work in putting this event together. They have demonstrated a commitment to improving the lives of women in the Chicagoland community that is extraordinary, and I believe that this is the first example of a law firm hosting such an event. I hope that other firms will follow their example.

The proceeds of the October 15 fashion show will benefit two wonderful charities. The Prentice Women's Hospital at Northwestern Memorial Hospital is one of the most pre-eminent women's hospitals in the country, providing clinical care, education and research into women's health care. For too long, medical research and delivery services have failed to address the needs of women. Prentice Women's Hospital is playing a tremendous part in changing that, by focusing on women's health and allowing women to be actively involved in improving their access to medical care. The Nathaniel B. and Joyce Miriam Hirschtick Memorial Matching Gift Program will be unveiled at the Chicago Fashion Show, and it will continue to raise funds for Prentice Women's Hospital.

The other charity that will benefit is the Bottomless Closet, an organization also dedicated to improving the lives of women. The Mission

Statement of the Bottomless Closet is "to provide professional clothing, job retention training, coaching and mentoring services to working-poor women, enabling them to add value to the organizations that hire them while empowering them to craft a new vision for their lives." Clothes can make a difference, not just in how others see us but in how we see ourselves. The Bottomless Closet makes sure that low-income and working-poor women have the tools necessary to achieve their goals. With that assistance, women will be empowered to improve the well-being of their families and to become productive members of their community.

In addition to commending Arnstein & Lehr, I want to recognize the contributions of Cynde Hirschtick Munzer, a key organizer and moderator of this event, as well as Terry Schwartz and Gwen Rich, who are coordinating the Chicago Fashion Show and outfitting the models. I am pleased to be one of the participants in the Chicago Fashion Show. I also want to recognize the other women who will model clothing: Joy Cunningham, senior vice president and general counsel of Northwestern Memorial Hospital; Carrie Hightman, President of Ameritech Illinois; Mary Pat Reilly, press secretary to Senator DICK DURBIN; Rhoda Belson Salins, senior vice president of Solomon Smith Barney; Sheryl Swibel, a family therapist; Martha Tuite, a Chicago realtor; Vicki Turoff, Northwestern Memorial Hospital Service League board member; Stacey Kruger Birndorf, corporate managing director of Cushman & Wakefield of Illinois; Kathy Brock, anchorwoman at WLS-TV; Renee Cipriano, director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency; Sherren Leigh, editor of Today's Chicago Women; Roni Weiner Pressler, assistant vice president of Illinois State Medical Insurance Services, Inc.; and the Honorable Rita Mullins, mayor of the Village of Palatine. Their willingness to contribute their time to this important event is greatly appreciated.

Arnstein & Lehr is not just putting together a charity Fashion Show in Chicago. They will also host a similar event in Miami later this year, where the benefiting charities will be the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade County and Sited for Success.

Again, I want to congratulate and commend Arnstein & Lehr for demonstrating such a wonderful commitment to women in their communities and for acting now at a time when our nation is facing economic difficulties and security threats. Now, more than ever, it is important for all of us—individuals and businesses alike—to support each other. The Chicago Fashion Show is a wonderful example of how one law firm can make a difference in the lives of many.

MARC TENBUSCH: DEAN OF THE
POLKA DANCERS

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2001

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marc Tenbusch for his induction into the Michigan State Polka Music Hall of Fame.